

# Tip #9

## Air bag safety: Buckle up everyone! Children in back!



**NO!**



**NO!**



**NO!**



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*This child is in great danger! He is using only the lap part of the lap/shoulder belt and is perched on the edge of the seat, very close to the air bag.*

**An infant or child riding in the front seat can be seriously injured or killed by the inflating air bag.**

An air bag is not a soft pillow. To do its important job, an air bag comes out of the dashboard very fast, faster than the blink of an eye. Many people's lives have been saved by air bags.

The force of an air bag can hurt people who are too close to it. Drivers can prevent injuries to adults and children from air bags by following these safety steps.

### Air Bag Safety Steps

- Infants in rear-facing child safety seats must never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Children 12 and under should ride buckled up in the rear seat. They should use child safety seats, booster seats, or safety belts appropriate for their age and size.
- Everyone should buckle up with both lap AND shoulder belts on every trip. Driver and front passenger seats should be moved as far back from the dashboard as practical.
- Infants under age one must ride facing the rear of the car in the rear seat. Parents should feel just as comfortable in this situation as they do when they put their babies down for a nap and leave the room.
- If a baby has special health needs and requires full-time supervision, ask another adult to ride with the baby in the back seat and travel alone as little as possible until the health problem is resolved.



- Check your vehicle owner's manual and the instructions provided with your child safety seat for information on air bags and safety seat use.

*This car has a passenger air bag, so baby always rides in back.*